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PATENT

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/825,422
SUBMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2006, claims 1, 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Toledo (U.S. Patent No. 4,934,380). Claims 1, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arenas (U.S. Patent No. 5,640,970). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arenas in view of Finlayson (U.S. Patent No. 5,551,444).

In the present paper, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and claim 4 has been canceled. Additional amendments have been made to claim. These amendments are discussed below.

The amending of claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4, which is not rejected over de Toledo, avoids the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection over de Toledo.

The position of the Office with respect to Arenas is that Arenas discloses each of the elements of Claim 1 except for the proportion of the length of the insertion of the tapered portion into the receiving portion.

In the response filed August 24, 2006, applicants argued that, contrary to the assertion in the Final Action, Arenas does not disclose all of the elements of the guide wire recited in claim 1,

except for the proportion of the length of the insertion of the tapered portion into the receiving portion. More particularly, applicants argued that in Arenas, the coil wires 28, 36 are not fitted onto the mounting portion of the core wire in tandem and are not adjacent in the axial direction of the core wire. Coils of the coil wire 36 are interwoven or interleaved with coils of the coil wire 28 (Col. 4, lines 18-20) and both coil wires 28, 36 extend to the tip member (Col. 4, lines 24-26). Therefore, a most distal coil wire does not exist. Additionally, the pitch of the receiving end portion of the coil wire into which the tapered portion is inserted is constant and the pitch ahead of the receiving end portion is formed to be larger than that of the remaining portion (Col. 4, lines 20-24 and Figs. 2 and 3). Such a guide wire as disclosed in Arenas makes it more difficult to connect the coil wires than the guide wire of the present invention.

In the Advisory Action of October 24, 2006, the Office maintained the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 6 over Arenas on the basis that "substantially" is a broad term and that the coil wires (28, 36) of Arenas are "substantially" in tandem. In response to applicants' assertion that a most distal coil wire does not exist, the Office took the position that whole of coil (36) is positioned

closest to the distal end, and, therefore, is a most distal coil wire.

In order to avoid the position of the Office as explained in the Advisory Action, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the plurality of coil wires that are in tandem and that are connected with each other at the corresponding ends thereof, includes a first coil wire having a distal end extending from the distal end of the core wire in the proximal direction of the guide wire and a second coil wire in tandem with the first coil wire and having a distal end extending from a proximal end of the first coil wire in the proximal direction of the guide wire. This amendment, which is supported in the drawings and four corners of the specification of the present application, is intended to and is believed to require the end of the second coil wire to [begin and] extend from the proximal end of the first coil wire and to exclude the possibility of both the first and second coil wires extending to the distal tip of the core wire. Therefore, the amendment is believed to overcome the rejections based on Arenas.

The guide wire of amended claim 1 has the advantageous characteristics that the plurality of coil wires are exactly positioned in tandem and a proximal end of the first coil wire has a larger pitch in an overlap portion of the first coil wire and the

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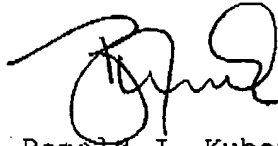
second coil wire and that the coil wires can be easily connected in a short period of time. Such characteristics are not disclosed or suggested in Arenas.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of the claims and a notice of allowability of the application are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, the Office does not believe that amended claim 1 distinguishes over Arenas, the Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to determine an acceptable limitation that will distinguish over Arenas.

In the event any fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
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